



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

February 13, 2015

It was yet another busy week in Raleigh with numerous education bills filed, much of those pertaining to local school calendar flexibility. Budget work formally began with all Appropriations Committees meeting this week where General Assembly staff provided legislators with an overview of the State's budgeting process and issues that are expected to arise this session.

On Thursday, the full House and Senate Appropriations Committees met jointly for a revenue forecast provided by economists from the General Assembly Fiscal Research Division. Earlier this fiscal year, the revenue forecast for 2015-16 seemed very bleak with some projections reaching upwards of \$600 million in shortfalls. However, Thursday's presentation showed that state revenue collections through January are lagging \$215 million below target. This shortfall is not projected to increase tremendously as tax receipts accumulate at a higher rate through April.

The forecast presentation also covered numerous "budget pressures" that the General Assembly may address this year. Budget pressures are essentially additions to the current operating expenses that are not accounted for in the base-spending plan. Some education-related budget pressures for the 2015-16 fiscal year, as presented, were:

Budget Issue	Projected Cost
Student enrollment growth	\$70 million
State health plan for teacher/employees	\$45 million
Beginning teacher pay raise to \$35K	Approx. \$42 million
Driver education	\$26 million
State employee salary increase (per 1%)	\$134 million
Retiree cost of living adjustment (per 1%)	\$39 million
Teacher salary step increase	\$65 million

To read more about this week's revenue forecast and budget pressures, click [here](#).

Relevant Bills in Committee This Week:

There were no relevant education bills heard in committee this week. Committees will begin hearing education bills next week.

Relevant Bills with Action This Week:

- [HB 62](#) School Calendar Flexibility/Certain School Systems (Richardson)
- Referred to the House Committee on Commerce and Job Development, if favorable, Education – K-12
- [HB 64](#) School Calendar Flexibility (Lambeth, Hanes, Conrad)
- Referred to the House Committee on Commerce and Job Development, if favorable, Education – K-12
- [HB 77](#) School Calendar Flexibility/Certain School Systems (Speciale)
- Referred to the House Committee on Commerce and Job Development, if favorable, Education – K-12
- [HB 84](#) School Calendar Flexibility/Kannapolis (Ford)
- Filed
- [HB 85](#) School Calendar Flexibility/Cabarrus (Ford)
- Filed
- [HB 86](#) Utility Line Relocation/School Board (McNeill, Hurley, Shepard)
- Filed
- [HB 88](#) School Calendar Flexibility/Guilford (Brockman, R. Johnson)
- Filed
- [HB 89](#) Omnibus Economic Development Improvements (Hamilton, R. Moore, Hanes)
- Filed
- [SB 47](#) Senate 2015 UNC Board of Governors Election (Apodaca)
- Referred to the Senate Select Committee on UNC Board of Governors
 - Favorable report from the Senate Select Committee on UNC Board of Governors
 - Adopted in Senate
- [SB 55](#) School Calendar Flexibility/Guilford (Robinson)
- Referred to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
- [SB 59](#) School Calendar Flexibility/Person County Schools (Woodard)
- Referred to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
- [SB 79](#) Clinical Experience in Teacher Education Programs (Robinson)
- Referred to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations

[SB 81](#) NC Toxic- Free Kids Act (Bingham)
• Filed

[SB 84](#) Dropout Prevention & Recovery Pilot Expansion (Tillman)
• Filed

Meetings: February 17-19

Tuesday, February 17:

- 8:30 AM, Joint Education Appropriations, 423 LOB
- 10:00 AM, House Education – K-12, 643 LOB
 - HB 18 Planning Year for CIHS
 - HB 29 Technical Changes to Courses of Study Statute
 - HB 35 Education Innovation Task Force
- 11:00 AM, House Education – Community Colleges, 643 LOB
 - HB 15 Year-Round Funds for CC UGETC
 - HB 47 Youth Career Connect

Wednesday, February 18:

- 8:30 AM, House and Senate (Joint) Education Appropriations, 423 LOB
- 10:00 AM, House Health Committee, 643 LOB
 - HB 13 Amend School Health Assessment Requirements

Thursday, February 19

- 8:30 AM, Joint Education Appropriations, 423 LOB

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